

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO
DISPENSE WITH SPECIAL OR-
DERS ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY
14, 1995

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday next the House dispense with special orders out of consideration for the loyal staff that all too often have stayed here all too late for Members to have special orders, so on Tuesday next I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the special orders so they too can join with their loved ones for an evening celebration of Valentine's Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I would say to the majority leader, as one who for years and years has had very friendly discussions with the gentleman's side of the aisle on consideration for our staff in evenings, particularly as it relates to special orders, I want to say that I certainly will not object to that request, and I admire and congratulate the majority leader for making it.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Further reserving the right to object, I apologize, my Majority Leader. I was being somewhat facetious, but I am told that we have a number of Members signed up. Can we maybe wait just a couple of minutes or till Monday and do it on Monday?

Mr. ARMEY. I would be happy to. I was being impulsive, and I thought maybe the staff would have an opportunity to make their dates.

But let us go ahead and check on Monday.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, I want to assure the majority leader that I will be lobbying for the staff, but we will check with the Members who have special orders.

Mr. ARMEY. I suppose with the Members we will check on that, but there are at least two Members that will be fighting for the staff to have the night off early.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the request.

□ 1530

MANDATED SENTENCING: LISTEN TO THE GOVERNORS

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I did not have in my possession a letter which I now have from Governor Carnahan of Missouri and Governor Carson of Minnesota. It deals with H.R. 667, the Violent Criminal Incarceration Act of 1995.

We have just passed that act, and I voted for a couple of amendments that lost. But I would want the Members to have this brought to their attention.

Obviously a Democrat and a Republican Governor in speaking to it, they say, "This would make it difficult for many of our States to participate in the proposed requirements." What they were referring to were the sentencing requirements. The Governors go on to say, and I think this is important for us to note in consideration of the Federal mandate bill that we debated extensively, the governors say, "Federally mandated sentencing structure could disrupt the State efforts." The efforts to which they were referring was beefing up sentencing.

They conclude by saying, Mr. Speaker, "as Governors, we support maximum flexibility that recognizes the efforts currently in place or under way in many of our States. We urge you to strike the sentencing requirements in H.R. 667 and allow States to utilize Federal funds to establish truth-in-sentencing as it relates to the laws in our individual States."

Mr. Speaker, I believe as that legislation moves further through the process and comes back here, we ought to take into consideration the Governors' words.

LET FARMERS FARM

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague from Indiana, Mr. HOSTETTLER, the American Farm Bureau, the American soybean Association, and the National Pork Producers Council, in supporting the Agricultural Lands Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Second District of North Carolina is the second largest producer of tobacco in America. We also have hundreds of soybean, peanut, and livestock farms. Farmers are the backbone of my district. Unfortunately, Washington treats these hard-working Americans like criminals. Its agents invade their land. Federal bureaucrats tell them what they can and can't do on their own farms. Instead of spending their time in the fields and barns, our farmers are now spending their days filling our forms and applying for permits.

Mr. Speaker, the madness has to stop. The Agricultural Lands Protection Act is a first step in restoring some sanity to agricultural policy. It says that the Federal Government will no longer classify land historically used for farming and ranching as wetlands. No longer will farmers have to

bend to the whim of some hard core environmentalist at the Department of Agriculture or the Corps of Engineers. This bill restores fundamental property rights to the men and women who put food on our table. It's long past time that this House put the interests of the farmer above bureaucrats and academics, lets pass the Agricultural Lands Protection Act.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ZELIFF). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mrs. SEASTRAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SEASTRAND addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

A TRIBUTE TO ORNA SIEGEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. TUCKER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, in the past I have stood on the floor of this Chamber to pontificate on matters of local, State, and national importance. In the future, I will stand in this well and articulate the concerns of those in need of a voice to speak for them.

But today, Mr. Speaker, I rise for a different reason. I rise to pay tribute to a very special woman. A woman of substance, style, grace, and an inner beauty that would pale the brightest star. A committed leader in the struggle to enhance the pro-Israel cause; a heroine who speaks out while others remain silent; a wife to the man she calls her prince; a wonderful mother to her daughter Shana and her son Jonathan; a friend to those in need of friendship; she is my friend, the "red-hair," Orna Siegel.

Mr. Speaker, Orna Siegel was born Orna Tieb in Tunisia. She is the seventh of eight children that moved to a small town in Israel when she was four. At the age of 18 she served her country as a member of the Israeli Defense Forces as a sergeant in its' Air Force. She was educated at the Seminar Hakibutzim in Tel Aviv, Israel. There at the university she met her prince charming, American businessman, Saul Siegel. Cupid's arrow hit its' mark and Saul proposed to the lovely red head on the very day the couple met.

A true servant to her homeland, Orna founded the Summit Club, an Israeli-American leadership organization. She was the chairwoman of the annual fundraising gala dinner for the Friends

of the Israel Defense Forces, a support group for the Israeli counterpart to the USO. You can find the spirited redhead giving her time to the Jewish national fund as a hostess and fundraiser; the Jewish institute for National Security Affairs as a member and a participant in its national meetings; she is a member of the national executive committee, the Capitol Club and a local officer of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee [AIPAC], a pro-Israel lobby here in our Nation's Capitol. Orna is also a volunteer fundraiser, as well as, the chairwoman of government relations for Yad B'Yad, which means hand in hand, a human life saving fund that takes sick people from Israel to wherever in the world they can get the life saving medical attention they need. At a recent Yad B'Yad fundraising dinner for which Orna was the primary organizer, an eleven year old boy made a speech. He told how a bone marrow transplant paid for by Yad B'Yad had cured his leukemia—he told how this transplant has saved his life.

Mr. Speaker, all too often I hear people say that they wish that they could live a normal life. I have never heard those words uttered by Orna Siegel. Because I think more than anyone Orna knows that in this life there is no normal or abnormal, there is only life, and that we must live our lives to the fullest. More than anyone that I have had the opportunity to meet in recent years, Orna Siegel knows that we must seize each day and cherish the moments that life has to offer us. That we must wake up every morning and face each day unafraid, with a new faith—and the hope that somehow we can positively affect the lives of those we meet from one day to the next. For life has no meaning except for its impact on others. For all of the lives that she has touched, it would be hard to imagine a world without the one that so many affectionately call the "red hair."

Mr. Speaker, to talk about Orna Siegel is to speak in superlatives. She is a woman who has given her heart and soul to the support of her homeland and to affecting positive change in the lives of those that she meets. Her unwavering leadership and commitment goes well beyond the funds that she has raised for the numerous organizations to which she belongs. It goes to the very fiber of who she is, what she stands for, and the type of leadership she believes is important to demonstrate every day, no matter her physical state.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to know Orna Siegel, she is a leader, a heroine, a wife, a mother, and friend. She is my friend and I am honored to pay tribute to her.

TRIBUTE TO GREGORY CHIEDOZIE ACHOLONU

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man each and every one of us can look to as an example of discipline, of strength, of courage, of compassion and most importantly as an example of humility.

Mr. Speaker, I speak of Mr. Gregory Chiedozi Acholonu a native of Washington, DC.

In the world of chess Mr. Speaker, there are few peers to Mr. Acholonu. As a young child Greg was introduced to the world of chess by a family friend.

By 1972 Greg was reading Horowitz's chess theory and practice and Reti's modern ideas in chess.

By 1981 with the help of experts like Emory Tate and Stan Fink, Greg had achieved the rank of master.

In December 1992, Greg won the Maryland closed. In early 1993, at the age of 33, Greg achieved a rating over 2,400 and became a senior master.

In 1988, Greg was hired part-time by the U.S. Chess Center to, among other duties, teach, "the little players program."

With enthusiasm and love for the game Mr. Acholonu's instruction has inspired countless numbers of local kids and adults to strive for the top.

In the month of February, when the achievements and contributions of Americans of African decent are being highlighted to the world, I take pleasure in highlighting Mr. Acholonu's achievements and offer to our children and ourselves, a man worthy of emulating.

□ 1540

H.R. 7, THE NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ZELIFF). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as a new member of the International Relations Committee, in support of H.R. 7, the National Security Revitalization Act.

Our committee has passed this legislation and it will be on the floor next week.

For too long the United States has been paying too large a share of the military tab for United Nations peacekeeping missions. This, at a time when this Nation faces its own peacekeeping concerns on our neighborhood streets with the continued increase in violent crime.

I believe it is time that we control in the wild spending of taxpayer dollars on questionable peacekeeping missions abroad.

It is unacceptable to ask the American people to settle for less—through cuts in Federal programs—while at the same time giving disproportionate huge handouts to the United Nations.

Many Americans are being laid off by budget cuts and downsizing in both the public and private sectors while billions of dollars go to the U.N. bureaucracy.

They must stop.

That is why I am in full support of H.R. 7 which will bring an honest public accounting of actual U.S. contributions to U.N. peacekeeping activities.

Today the United Nations does not make a fair and full accounting of our in-kind contributions.

These millions of dollars of in-kind contributions that we have made are not credited against U.S. assessments.

Some 90 countries around the world pay less than one-tenth of 1 percent of U.N. peacekeeping costs while only 10 countries pay more than 1 percent of these costs.

The United States pays 32 percent of those peacekeeping costs—32 percent.

That is 2½ times more than the next largest contributor to the United Nations, which is Japan, second highest at 12.5 percent. Out of 186 nations, 160 of them pay less than a fraction of 1 percent. The United States pays 32 percent. And that's just what the United Nations gives us credit for.

In addition, the United States is also paying added Department of Defense in-kind costs of more than \$1.5 billion a year for related peacekeeping activities such as foreign troop transportation.

We get no credit for these extra expenditures.

H.R. 7 will require that the United States be credited for our own military expenditures as they relate to such peacekeeping operations. Every day the U.S. military is being called upon to support U.N. military operations.

Most recently, the United States has been called on in Somalia, Rwanda, Iraq, Cambodia, Haiti, and the former Yugoslavia.

Requests for U.N. involvement throughout the world continue to increase.

For example, just in the past couple of days the United States military has been sent again into Somalia to help protect and withdraw other U.N. peacekeepers.

Once again, Uncle Sam to the rescue.

But, if we were not there, most of these U.N. operations would collapse.

H.R. 7 will accomplish two important goals:

First, it will allow the U.S. Congress and the American people to understand how much the United States is actually contributing to support U.N. peacekeeping missions around the world.

Second, it will provide for a more equitable cost sharing of the real cost for such actions which is something that I believe the American people expect and deserve.

I would like to emphasize that this bill is not, an anti-United Nations, anti-peacekeeping measure.

It does not tie the hands of the President in pursuing multilateral U.N. solutions, nor end the United Nation's ability to conduct peace activities.

It does not cut off U.S. support for the United Nations.

All that H.R. 7 does is simply allow Congress to be involved in a comprehensive, rational, decisionmaking process related to the resources expended in the U.N. peacekeeping mission of the United Nations.